

Docket No.: UMBC-004

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Govind RAO

Serial No.: 09/928,662

Confirm. No.: 6410

Filed: August 14, 2001

For: BIOREACTOR AND BIOPROCESSING TECHNIQUE

: Group Art Unit: 1651

: Examiner: K. SRIVASTAVA

**REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action of February 5, 2003 wherein restriction has been required, Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-10 and 25-34), with traverse, for prosecution in the above-identified application.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present

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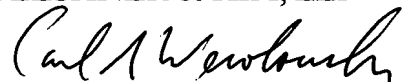
application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vazquez, at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

P.O. Box 221200  
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(703) 502-9440  
Date: February 28, 2003  
CRW/RAV:par

Respectfully submitted,  
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



René A. Vazquez, Esq.  
Carl R. Wesolowski, Esq.